2/5/69

Dear Paul and Gary,

Your respectuve letters of 2/3 and 2/1 received. Both helpful. Paul reminds he is willing to copy ~~xxxx~~ Gary's last Archives batch and, if I cannot get almost done by weekend I might send what I haven't for him to do. I think, when Gary can (and this time circumstances mitigated against it) he should check with both of us before ordering for indications are he has duplicated much, meaning wasted money that could have gotten things we do not have. I do recall some of what I have that I haven't yet carded and I have much of it carded. For example, I was able to tell Barry Ernest not to get ~~xxxx~~ certain page on people we was going to look up because we have them. With a few pages it does not pay, but with a large order, unless there is a real crush, I think Gary should send us both lists first, so we can mark what we have and supply.

Paul sent copy of NYT story on return pictures and X-rays, 11/2/66. I have misleid my file on this. What is itemized as being return does not fit any numbers in any of the records, including the recent ones. I also had a Washington Star story on this. If either of you has any accounting other than that of the Times,"14 X-rays, 25 black and white negatives and 26 four-by-five inch color transparencies", I'd appreciate as soon as possible, for Lil is typing away like med in the few minutes she has with a more than full-time job. If you will note what Graham says in this story, Paul, you will find his and the contemporaneous interpretation of what was sent to the Arch by DJ and the reasons are exactly my interpretations and not that of the Arch and DJ today.

Gary, I have CD 1330 and will copy when I have cleaned up the immediate. In your correspondence with Reed, seek to get his explanations of what happened to his original film. As I recall, Hoover says lost and he copied copies. See if those outside-theater scenes are complete. I think it is not necessary to assume "there had to be someone in that crowd". I agree it is worth checking, however. My own belief is that if anyone was there for such an involvement, it was to leave an exit door open so it could be entered from the outside, Having done that, discretion should have removed him promptly.

Correspondence with the Archives is important. I try to remember to send you both copies of all of mine. They do establish an important record. I spotted in the panel report, which Paul now has and of which I'll try and dig out a copy for Gary to go with this, on page 5, between the itemization (excuse the expression) of pictures and X-rays, this: "All of the above were listed in a memorandum of transfer, located in the National Archives, and dated April 26, 1965." I regard this as so important I phoned Johnson from N.O. 1/20 and asked for a copy. I have twice since and gotten no answer, no explanation of delay, no indication (though I've asked) how this could possibly be withheld. We have short hair here and should pull. I haven't because while there is the slightest chance there may be a hearing before Judge Halleck Bud, who also spotted separately, would rather pull this as a surprise. However, I think it would be good if Gary wrote Eckhoff asking, quoting words and nothing else. If he gets an answer, he might then refer to Eckhoff's 1/29, "We do not have records of any other agencies concerning the investigation of the assassination except those that are among the records of the Commission". This could not have been. Nor could the family-GSA contract. So there are exceptions.

I would much like to talk to Worthy (to whom another friend has just, strangely, spoken). I also have some King material you have not seen that might interest him. If you are again in touch, extend my invitation, which includes a pad and access to everything. I do not know what else Bernabei has. Consider Lomax may have an importance through his connections, then estimate what these can be. I think he was fed Colt stuff and I know he is pro-Liebeler, if not a friend of his.

Gary, it might be worth trying to learn what "Billie Williams" looks like, to see if he could have been one of those in May attendance on me out there.

Bud mimeographed copies of all the medical statements Clark used 1/17 and, not knowing I had Xeroxed copies of the complete file for both of you, gave me copies for you, but they are in a very big stack I brought back from N.O, and haven't had time to dig into. I just spotted one and included it in the envelope for Gary. He omitted the Marshall memo in what he gave the court(!). I think it would be a good idea if Paul wrote the DJ again and asked for the complete file, including press releases and bri efs, etc. I went in writing that there was no press release, an exceptional thing (true also when Clark retreated on Shaw). In these cases they have a typed statement they read, or at least sometimes do, and if he gets a negative answer he might ask for that. Let them say "no" or that they do not have. This is by far the most serious blunder they have made and we must not overlook any possibilities.

In reading what I have written, I am approaching the end. I so hate to have to write this kind of significant material under time pressure to make it available and the emotional sweat of not knowing whether I can ever get it published. It makes for not the best writing. I do not even have time to outline, doing that in my mind as I write. But I think the most important single thing is not my vanity but getting the stuff on paper and out. Both are major problems. Matt Herron had an idea some months ago that I should ask Vince, who he said could well afford it, to get me an "editor in residence", a recent but prepared college graduate being a possibility. Vince never did respond. I would have provided quarters and what goes with it, etc. Lil is typing this from my rough draft, read once. She has completed about 18,000 words, which makes me feel my estimate of 30,000 is about 100% short of what I have actually written. Seems impossible, when I was working in N.O. when I did so much of it! I wish I know how I could xerox copies for both of you when it is done. It will then be a major task to make changes, but there may be some essential.

No word from Bud or anyone else as of after 10 a.m. (got mail at P.O. 7:45 this a.m., which I can do when I take Lil to work and can get it done before returning to other work). No comments on letter to Vince. Except you two, Bud, Jim (through Ivon) and Sylvia, I sent no other copies.

Paul points out my interpretation of bullet wound top head more consistent with TSBD shot. Save for what happened <u>after</u> bullet hit. This requires an even more controlled explosion than the existing fiction. It narrows the area into which that force was applied too much. I also makes sense out of the BURNING of that single front skull X-ray. Which might have shown front damage. I am now ready to believe anything about any kind of medico-legal dirty-work.

If you both remember my elliptical handling of Vallee in COUP, I now have confirmation of my suspicion, that he was actually of SS interest <u>before</u> scheduled JFK 11/2/63 Chicago visit. Suggest you think of this terms Bolden. Confirmed by Chi police during his trial. I have duplicating clips from two different papers....My call to Johnson not until 1/22/69. Memo enclosed. I have copies Nichols suit for both. Haven't had chance read yet, or to answer his letter....Took time to get Nichols suit papers. Enclosed. Also Rose-Wilson pix for Gary, Kaffke memo to Paul (for Hal). If I find, I'll include other things I have for you before mailing.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg